

Summer 2013

# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES...

*Where History Begins*



## Missouri State Penitentiary Records

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# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

## Where History Begins

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@MissouriHistory

### The Friends of the Missouri State Archives

The purpose of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives is to render support and assistance to the Missouri State Archives. As a not-for-profit corporation, the Friends organization is supported by memberships and gifts.

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**Missouri  
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### On the Cover

*Background:* Inmates marching to the dining hall, Missouri State Penitentiary, no date. *Foreground:* Inmate ledger and mug shots, Missouri State Penitentiary, c. 1945.

From the collection of the Missouri State Archives.





# From the State Archivist

Anyone who spends time with Robert “Bob” Sandfort quickly notices three things: his enduring interest in engineering, his love of history and an extraordinary sense of civic commitment. Bob’s background in both business and history made him an ideal fit as president of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives board of directors, a position he recently stepped down from after six extremely productive years. During this time, Bob’s thoughtful leadership helped the Friends and, by extension, the Archives achieve a fantastic level of growth and success.



Although Bob continues to serve on the board, the conclusion of his term as president provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on some of the Friends’ accomplishments from this period. Despite the economic downturn of the last few years, memberships have remained steady, funds were raised for the Foley Research Fellowship, sponsorship of the Missouri Region 4 National History Day competition continued and the Friends’ newsletter transitioned from limited to full color. Further, Friends’ sponsored social events, including Wine with Friends, the Jefferson City Folk Art Festival, exhibit openings and volunteer receptions, were well attended and enjoyed by all. On a larger scale, growth occurred in terms of participation in Friends’ sponsored Archives activities such as *Archives Alive!*, the interactive, theatrical history program for students, and our monthly Thursday Evening Speaker Series programs, at which Bob often introduces the speakers.



Robert Sandfort

While leading the Friends, Bob also served on the board of directors of the St. Charles County Historical Society, and was active in a number of other Missouri charitable organizations and foundations, particularly in the St. Charles area. Additionally, he found time to pen his second book, *The St. Charles Guards: McCausland’s Company of the Oregon Battalion*, a model volume for military historians writing unit histories.

Working with Bob has been a tremendous privilege, and I believe I speak for all of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives when I say thank you for your active interest in our state’s history and your continued service.

John Dungan

On the night of August 27, 1864, William B. Calhoun (Calhoon), a wealthy and influential landowner in Linn County, was shot and killed in his pasture near the Linn/Sullivan County line, west of the current town of Browning. Those responsible were never brought to justice, leading local historians to speculate on the identity of the murderer. Several possible theories have emerged. Bushwhackers may have killed him for cooperating with Union soldiers, militiamen from Sullivan County may have shot him or perhaps neighbors killed him looking for a considerable sum of cash from a recent cattle sale. Sometimes, however, uncovering the whole story is just not possible.

While the Civil War is traditionally dated 1861-1865, it spanned a much greater period in Missouri. Beginning in the 1850s with the dispute with Kansas and lingering until the 1875 state constitution granted a general amnesty to both Union and Confederate soldiers, Missouri experienced two decades of armed conflict

directly related to the central issues of the war. Linn County was no exception. In June 1875 James Calhoun filed a complaint in the Linn County Circuit Court against James E. Head for the murder of his father nearly eleven years earlier.

Head, a sergeant in a Sullivan County company of the 66th Regiment of the Enrolled Missouri Militia, reportedly taunted James Calhoun in November 1864, stating he "was the first man that pulled the trigger that killed your daddy." No explanation is given as to why it took so long to charge Head. The story recounted in the 1888 Goodspeed county history volume reflects contemporary gossip by suggesting Calhoun was in Scottsville when a posse purportedly looking for bushwhackers overtook him. They accompanied him home, where he gave them water and told his wife that they intended to hunt guerrillas. Calhoun was later found dead, his pockets emptied and his papers scattered around the field.



*Guerrilla Depredations, Harper's Weekly.*

The circuit court file does not mention any missing money, but the documents do explain that Alexander Gooch, the local justice of the peace, examined sixteen individuals about the events of that night eleven years earlier. According to these accounts, members of the Sullivan County militia killed Calhoun while interrogating him about local bushwhackers.

The statements Gooch compiled from these witnesses were damaging.

The first, William Garrett, testified Calhoun had his front teeth knocked out and was shot four times. John Hatcher then stated he and others in the unit received water from Calhoun, but that his fellow militiamen all mounted and rode away from the house when a posse of six unknown men approached them. Surrounding Hatcher and Calhoun, the men ordered Hatcher to drop back. After going a short distance

from the home, the posse stopped, dismounted and one of them said, "Mr. Calhoun you must tell us all about these bush Whackers..." Calhoun replied that he knew nothing, at which time two of the unknown riders walked Calhoun into the brush. Shortly thereafter Hatcher reported hearing four shots and the sounds of men hurrying back and reloading. He then remounted and joined the main body of his militia unit at Calhoun's watermelon patch, leaving the unidentified men of the posse behind. Although he admitted it was too dark to see and that his hearing was poor, Hatcher stated he thought Head spoke to him in the pasture and was thereby one of the unknown riders. Stokley Manes, William Myres, John Bennett and James Garrett then all testified they heard Head taunt James Calhoun about killing his father years later.

Despite these accounts, the witnesses for the defense managed to cast some doubt on the case. James Sterling,

*Continued on Page 11*



# Missouri State Penitentiary Records as a Genealogical Resource

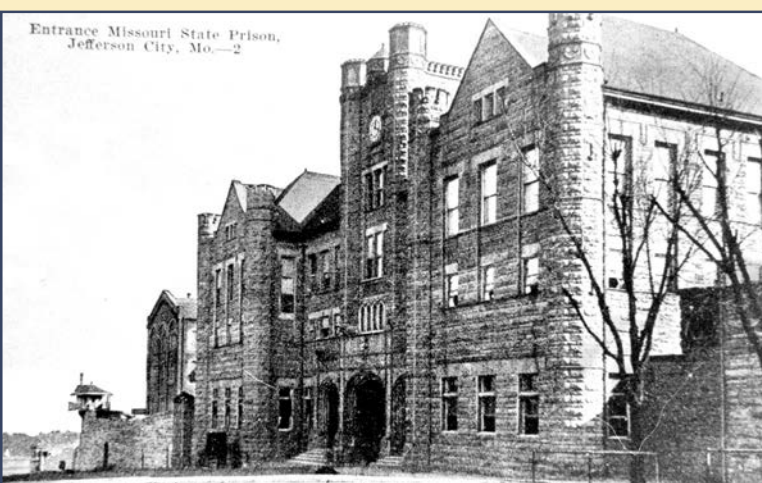
*By Mary Stansfield, Research Analyst*

Military, census, vital, church and school. These are all records commonly known and used by genealogists, but the Missouri State Archives possesses another type of record often worth considering—those from the Missouri Department of Corrections, specifically the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) in Jefferson City.

MSP opened in 1836 as the first penitentiary west of the Mississippi River. Before the facility closed in 2004, it housed tens of thousands of prisoners, both male and female, resulting in records brimming with information of interest to genealogists.

The most substantial records come from the registers of inmates received into the penitentiary. Each of these includes an inmate's name and any aliases, age, nativity, occupation and level of education. Additionally, prisoners often provided the contact information of a family member on the outside.

Physical descriptions of inmates were also recorded in these registers. Before the advent of mug shots, height, weight, hair color, eye color and complexion could be combined to create an accurate description of escaped inmates.



Without a photograph of Great Uncle John? According to his register of inmates received record, John Griffin (#3832) was 5'6" with red hair, grey eyes and a moustache. Moreover, he was Protestant, a drinker and could read and write.

Of course, the registers also provide information on the crime(s) committed. Offense, county and sentencing details are all listed, as well as the court of record and court term. Extenuating information about the crimes are rarely provided, so, for example, it is not surprising to see grand larceny result in a two-year sentence from Saline County and a ten-year sentence from the City of St. Louis.

Some register entries also include detailed descriptions of marks, scars and tattoos, with American flags, bald eagles, anchors and women as the most common subjects. Samuel Applegate, convicted of grand larceny in 1863, managed three out of four. His record describes him as having an "Anchor in India ink on left hand near thumb; female holding flag on right arm below elbow."

The registers can also tell you if your ancestor was a repeat offender. Prior MSP incarcerations are noted, as well as stays in other jails and penitentiaries across the country. Previous inmate numbers are normally included, simplifying the search for further records.

Mug shots are another common MSP record. Starting in 1928, every inmate entering the facility was photographed, with those serving long sentences often the subject of multiple shots taken at various points during their stay.

How do you know if a relative did time? Federal Census records are a good place to start. MSP is located in Cole County, and prisoners were enumerated in each census, going back to 1840. Beginning in 1940, inmate numbers were also recorded (inmate numbers were assigned starting in 1876).

Circuit court records can provide more clues. All 114 counties and the City of St. Louis have their own circuit court record books and/or case files offering valuable sentencing details for those willing to look.

To request a search of the MSP registers of inmates received, contact Missouri State Archives' reference services at [archref@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archref@sos.mo.gov).

# Picture This

By Amy Moorman, Visual Materials Archivist

## *Dr. Arnold Parks Postcard Collection*

This is the first in a series of three articles describing the history of postcard collecting and highlighting significant postcard collections held by the Missouri State Archives. Look for additional information in the upcoming fall and winter editions of the newsletter!

Just behind coin and stamp collecting, deltiology, or the collecting of postcards, is among the most popular collecting hobbies in the United States. Deltiologists engage in this activity for a variety of reasons, but frequently they have an interest in a specific subject or location, perhaps their hometown or current place of residence. Some of the most popular postcards are “town views,” portraying scenes of life in a particular place. Early town view images were either printed pictures or real photos mounted on a cardboard backing. Printed picture cards are more common because they were mass-produced, while real photo cards are generally rarer and therefore considered more valuable.

Friends of the Missouri State Archives board member Dr. Arnold Parks donated one of the Missouri State Archives’ largest postcard collections. It is comprised of a series of Jefferson City related images, both mass printed and mounted photographs, dating from 1905-2006. The Parks Collection highlights state buildings, educational institutions, local businesses and street scenes from the last century in Jefferson City.

The wide date range of the postcards in this collection offers a great visual timeline of Jefferson City. In particular, the images of High Street show the changes in the city’s architecture, technology and culture over the last century.

Selections from the Parks Postcard Collection are part of an online collection titled “Historic Postcards of Jefferson City,” viewable on the Missouri Digital Heritage website ([http://sospublicuaweb/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=hpjeffcity](http://sospublicuaweb/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=hpjeffcity)).





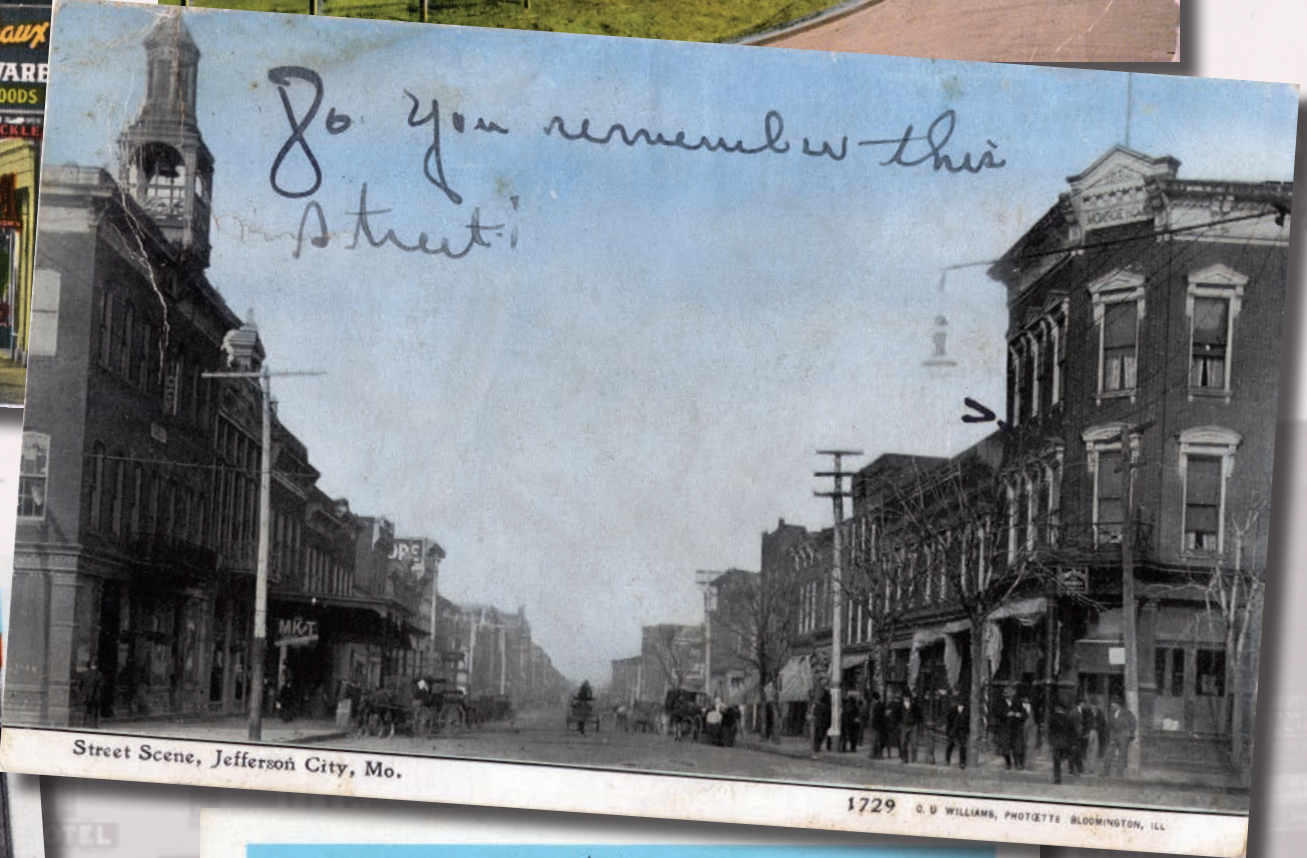
Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City, Mo.



souri



Do you remember this  
street?



Street Scene, Jefferson City, Mo.

1729 G. U. WILLIAMS, PHOTOETTE BLOOMINGTON, ILL.



COURT HOUSE





*"Early in the war, however, companies formed by citizen soldiers had more colorful and distinctive names"*

## THE JACKSON FOX HUNTERS AND EAGLEVILLE BLOOD HOUNDS GO TO WAR

Throughout the Civil War, the men serving in Missouri's militia companies elected their own officers. These units were generally designated by letters of the alphabet, except for "J," which, when handwritten, looked too similar to "I." Early in the war, however, companies formed by citizen soldiers had more colorful and distinctive names that often invoked the area in which they were formed and their spirit of martial enthusiasm.

On November 20, 1861, Henry O. Nevill, Inspector of the 4th Military District, reported the results of officer elections in nine militia companies from northwestern Missouri to Adjutant General George R. Smith. Nevill had previously commanded the Harrison County Regiment of Home Guards for its brief, twenty-day period of service in September, and several of the companies may have been recycled from this old regiment.

Of the uniquely named companies mustered by Nevill, all were subsequently incorporated into battalions of the Six Months Militia under the more usual letter designation. The Union Guards, Gallatin Guards and Grand River Rangers became companies A, B and C of Cox's Battalion, while the Jackson Fox Hunters, Eagleville Invincibles and Lugar Creek Sharp Shooters became companies A, B and C of Burris's Battalion. The Bethany Rangers became Company A and the Eagleville Blood Hounds became Company B of the Harrison County Battalion. Finally, the Grand River Tigers assumed the less stirring title of Company G of Cranor's Regiment.

Records of the Union's Six Months Militia and other Missouri military units are in the papers of the Adjutant General at the Missouri State Archives.

*View of Jefferson City, 1861, Harper's Weekly.*

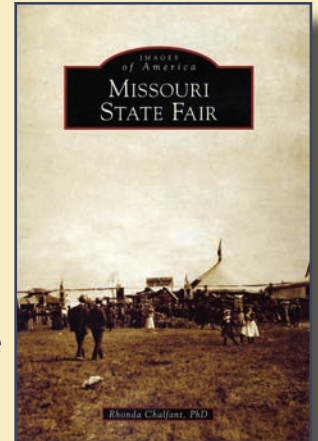




# Summer 2013 Program Calendar

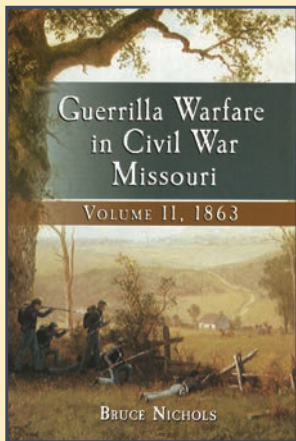
## Missouri State Fair

When Missouri Governor Lon Stephens signed House Bill 279 on April 19, 1899, to provide for the establishment of a state fair, he set in motion a series of events that he probably could not imagine. More than 100 years—and fairs—later, the Missouri State Fair has grown from a five-day event with an attendance of 25,346, to an 11-day extravaganza regularly drawing upwards of 350,000 visitors. It is an educational institution, informing Missourians of new methods of farming, stockbreeding and homemaking, as well as a platform for demonstrating the latest technologies. On the evening of July 11, author Rhonda Chalfant provided insight into the history of the Missouri State Fair, using previously unpublished images from the Pettis County Historical Society, the Missouri State Fair, the Missouri State Archives and many others. She explored the evolution of the Fair from its inception at the turn of the 20th century, to its current status as Missouri's premier showcase for agriculture, art and entertainment.



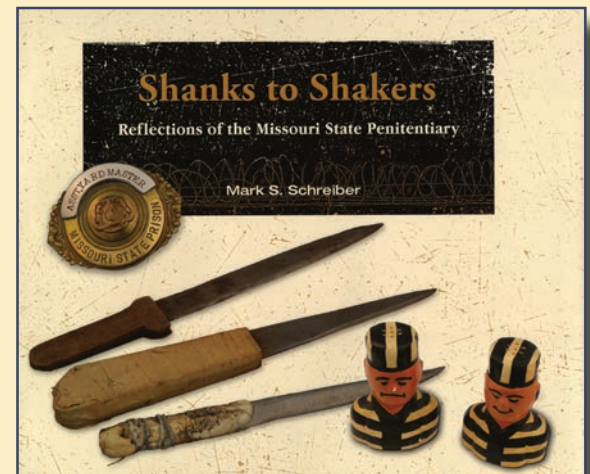
## Guerrilla Warfare in Civil War Missouri, Volume II, 1863 August 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

In his new book, *Guerrilla Warfare in Civil War Missouri*, author Bruce Nichols extensively documents the savage conflict that raged throughout Missouri in 1863, the middle year of the most traumatic period in the history of the state. Although much of the text focuses on the military conflict between pro-Southern “bushwhackers” and the often-confusing network of Unionist militias, the civilian experience is also recounted in all its horror. Nichols utilizes both well-known and obscure sources to identify groups led by Southern partisan leaders active in various parts of the state, as well as how their methods of warfare evolved as the war raged on. Supplementing his writing are well over one hundred maps, illustrations and photographs that help place the events described in the larger context of the period. Join us as Mr. Nichols discusses his book, providing insight into the guerrilla violence that defined the brutal nature of the war in Missouri.



## Shanks to Shakers: Reflections of the Missouri State Penitentiary September 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Historian and author Mark S. Schreiber began his 42-year career in criminal justice in 1968 as an employee with the Missouri State Penitentiary, the longest continuously operational prison west of the Mississippi River. Although professional opportunities took him away from the facility, he eventually returned to serve as the last deputy warden before it closed in 2004. During his tenure, Schreiber collected many stories and artifacts from the prison once called “the bloodiest 47 acres in America” by Time magazine. His newest book, *Shanks to Shakers*, documents rare, historical and collectible artifacts associated with life behind these walls, including old photographs, postcards, books, prison-made weapons, paintings, woodcarvings and even salt and pepper shakers once sold in the prison gift shop! Enjoy an evening with Schreiber as he shares highlights from his book and stories from his years working at the infamous Missouri State Penitentiary.



*All programs will be held at the Missouri State Archives, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, and are free and open to the public.*

# 2013 William E. Foley Research Fellow

Each year, the Friends of the Missouri State Archives sponsor the William E. Foley Research Fellowship. Named after one of the state's most well-respected historians, this honor was created to continue Foley's tradition of using Missouri's public records to further knowledge of state and national history. It is designed to cover the travel expenses of researchers utilizing the holdings of the Missouri State Archives or its St. Louis branch. The 2013 recipient is Kelly Kennington, an Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University. She plans to study St. Louis Freedom Suits and the development of slave legal culture in antebellum America by examining historical St. Louis Circuit Court records. This research will provide context to the infamous Dred Scott case and shed light on interactions between subordinated peoples and the legal system.

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## 2013 Friends of the Missouri State Archives Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting was held June 8 at the G2 Gallery in Jefferson City. After the business portion, attendees enjoyed a fascinating presentation by award-winning journalist and author James McGrath Morris, who spoke on his newest book, *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power*, which recreates the legendary life of Joseph Pulitzer.



Secretary of State Jason Kander (left) with Marita and Donnie Custard, recipients of the 2013 Volunteer Award.

The Friends also presented two awards at the meeting: one to honor the outstanding service of a pair of Missouri State Archives volunteers and the other to recognize an institution that has made a significant contribution to the preservation of the state's heritage.

The 2013 Volunteer Award went to Donnie and Marita Custard for their work at the Missouri State Archives. Citing a desire to give back to the records and genealogical communities, the New Bloomfield couple began volunteering in March of 2011. Since that time, Donnie and Marita have demonstrated an incredible level of commitment. In the past year alone, they spent more than 230 hours each on various processing projects, including World War II Reports of Separation, 1962 Death Certificates and National Guard Enlistment Contracts.

Truman State University was the recipient of the 2013 Jonas Viles Award for its part in creating the Northeast Missouri Records Preservation Program. In this unique endeavor, students from the University's campus in Kirksville, under the supervision of Local Records staff, arrange, describe and index historical records from Missouri's northeastern counties. Although active for only three full semesters and a summer term, interns have already logged nearly 1,400 hours, processing 60 cubic feet of records. The students have completed their initial project, involving records from the Shelby County Circuit Court, and are now processing a collection from the Clark County Circuit Court. Through these efforts, records that would have remained unknown are now accessible to researchers across the state.

Both the Custards and Truman State University are deserving of recognition and gratitude for their remarkable commitment to preserving and developing access to the records of our state.

To learn more about the topics discussed at the annual meeting, view the Friends of the Missouri State Archives annual report at [www.friendsofmsa.org](http://www.friendsofmsa.org).



# Donations to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives (as of June 26, 2013)

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Frank & Betty Masters, Jefferson City  
Sharlene Miller, St. Joseph

## Archives Afield: Murder in Linn County

*Continued from Page 4*

the company lieutenant, stated he heard the shots but did not give an order to shoot Calhoun, nor could he get anyone to tell him who fired and why. He went on to say the only man he saw coming from the direction of the shots was John Hatcher. John Kinley then testified that he was with Head in the watermelon patch when they heard the shots and supposed it was bushwhackers, but several witnesses swore Kinley was drunk. Warren McCulley, however, stated that he saw Head just after the shots were fired, corroborating his testimony, and that they had all wondered about the whereabouts of Calhoun. This is where the official record ends.

Head was arrested and granted bail, but died awaiting trial. He may have shot Calhoun, he may have known who did or he may have been entirely innocent. Was Calhoun a murder victim or a casualty of war? We may never know, but given that the 1865 Missouri Constitution granted amnesty to all Union troops, federal or state, it is entirely possible that the charges against Head would have been dismissed at trial.

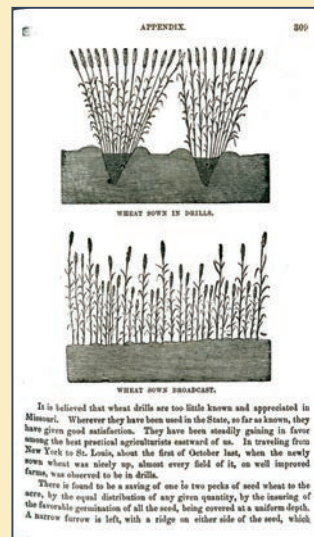
The story told by this case file diverges from the local oral tradition in a number of ways, while supporting it in others. Unfortunately, we will probably never know the truth. Was this a case of overzealous interrogation in the hunt for guerrillas, simple robbery-murder or something else entirely? We want history to reveal all of its secrets, but often the documents no longer exist, or never existed in the first place. Those we do possess, however, provide enough information to keep us toiling away, eager to learn just a bit more.

# Missouri House and Senate Journals

By Sharon Brock, Processing Archivist

The House and Senate Journals of the Missouri General Assembly, along with the corresponding appendices, record the varied proceedings of the state legislature. These volumes document the cultural, economic and social conditions influencing the decisions made by the Missouri General Assembly, providing a window into the past for each day in which the legislature was in session.

In addition to the day to day proceedings, the journals and appendices also contain official department, agency, office and committee reports; correspondence; Missouri Attorney General and Supreme Court rulings; statistics; commendations, resignations, eulogies and obituaries; resolutions; and gubernatorial messages, proclamations and orders, all of which provide excellent primary source material for the savvy researcher.



Methods of planting wheat,  
from *The House Journal of the  
Adjourned Session of the 23rd  
General Assembly, 1865-1866.*

House and Senate Journals spanning 1820-1899 are now available online in a keyword searchable format through the Missouri Digital Heritage website ([www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=housesenatejrnls](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=housesenatejrnls)).

## What's New on the Missouri Digital Heritage Website?

Missouri House and Senate Journals, 1888-1899 (Online collection now includes, 1820-1899):

[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=housesenatejrnls](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=housesenatejrnls)

Missouri Governor John Sappington Marmaduke, 1885-1887:

[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=jsmarmaduke](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=jsmarmaduke)

Missouri Governor Albert Pickett Morehouse, 1887-1889:

[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=morehouse](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=morehouse)

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